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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2018

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. At its seventy-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 72/66, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012, 68/63 of 5 December 2013, 69/77 of 2 December 2014, 70/68 of 7 December 2015 and 71/82 of 5 December 2016,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission",[2] Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3]

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Commends* the Disarmament Commission for the successful conclusion of its consideration of the item entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons", and endorses the consensus text adopted thereon;[1]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/72/42).
[2] Resolution 44/119 C, annex.
[3] Resolution S-10/2.

3. *Notes with regret* that the Disarmament Commission was not able to reach a consensus on the item entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons";

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

5. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982 and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[2]

6. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission consider the following items at its substantive session of 2018:

(a) [To be determined];

(b) [To be determined];

7. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (e) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2018, namely from 2 to 20 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2017 session,[3] together with all the official records of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2018 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2018 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/72/27).

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

Chapter II
Organization and work of the substantive session of 2018

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2018 at United Nations Headquarters at its 368th plenary meeting, on 21 February 2018 (see A/CN.10/PV.368). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its substantive session of 2018 in accordance with the "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 44/119 C, annex) and in the light of Assembly resolution 72/66. The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the position of Chair among the geographic regions. The Commission elected the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, Gillian Bird, as Chair for its 2018 session.

3. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2018 (A/CN.10/L.80/Rev.1). The Commission also decided that the agenda for its substantive session of 2018 should serve for the period 2018–2020. The agenda reads as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
5. In accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189), preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space.
6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.
7. Other business.

4. At its 369th meeting, on 2 April 2017, the Commission took note of its schedule of meetings for the session (A/CN.10/2018/CRP.1).

5. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 20 April 2018. In the course of its session, the Commission held six plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.369-374). The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Commission, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs represented the substantive secretariat.

6. During the 2018 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:

Gillian Bird (Australia)

Vice-Chairs:

Representatives of Algeria, Bangladesh, Czechia, Egypt, Nepal and Ukraine

Rapporteur:
Diedre Mills (Jamaica)

7. At its 369th meeting, on 2 April 2018, the Commission elected Diedre Mills (Jamaica) as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4, and Jeroen Cooreman (Belgium) as Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5.

8. At its 369th to 371st meetings, on 2 and 3 April, the Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.369-371). Representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines (also on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

9. At its 369th meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

10. The Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4. Working Group I held 10 meetings, from 4 to 19 April.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5. Working Group II held 10 meetings, from 3 to 18 April.

12. In accordance with the past practice of the Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

Chapter III
Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

13. The Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of documents submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission for its substantive session of 2018 (A/CN.10/212).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

14. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted and considered:

(a) Working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement (A/CN.10/2018/WG.I/CRP.1);

(b) Working paper submitted by Australia (A/CN.10/2018/WG.II/CRP.1);

(c) Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation (A/CN.10/2018/WG.II/CRP.2);

(d) Working paper submitted by the Group of Arab States (A/CN.10/2018/WG.II/CRP.3);

(e) Working paper submitted by the States members of the League of Arab States (A/CN.10/2018/WG.I/CRP.2).

Chapter IV
Conclusions and recommendations

15. At its 373rd meeting, on 20 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted, ad referendum, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. No recommendations were put forward by the Commission. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

16. At its 374th meeting, on 20 April, the Commission adopted, by consensus, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as orally revised, to be presented to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair, the Bureau members, the Chairs of the Working Groups and the Secretariat.

17. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 368th plenary meeting, on 21 February 2018, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the 2018 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.80/Rev.1) and decided to allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

2. The Working Group, chaired by Diedre Mills (Jamaica), held 10 meetings, from 4 to 19 April 2018. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group held extensive discussions on agenda item 4.

4. At the 1st meeting, on 4 April 2018, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the previous Chair's paper (A/CN.10/2017/WG.I/CRP.1).

5. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 9 April 2018, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the compilation of proposals received from delegations and circulated by the Chair on 5 April 2018.

6. At the 4th and 5th meetings, on 11 April 2018, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the compilation of proposals received from delegations and circulated by the Chair on 5 April 2018.

7. At the 6th meeting, on 13 April 2018, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's non-paper circulated on 12 April 2018.

8. At the 7th and 8th meetings, on 17 April 2018, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the compilation of amendments to the Chair's non-paper dated 12 April, received from delegations and circulated on 16 April 2018.

9. At the 9th meeting, on 19 April 2018, delegations continued to exchange views and made various proposals on the compilation of additional amendments to the Chair's non-paper dated 12 April, received from delegations and circulated on 18 April 2018.

10. Following discussions by the Group, the Chair decided to issue the Chair's paper dated 12 April 2018, under her own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation (A/CN.10/2018/WG.I/CRP.3). The Chair also

annexed to her paper a compilation of written proposals, made by Member States at the 2018 meetings of the Working Group, without prejudice to the right of any State to put forward additional proposals in the future. The Working Group agreed to continue its discussion on the Chair's paper at the next session of the Commission.

11. The following documents were presented to Working Group I:

(a) Working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement (A/CN.10/2018/WG.I/CRP.1);

(b) Working paper submitted by the States members of the League of Arab States (A/CN.10/2018/WG.I/CRP.2).

12. The Working Group recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

13. At its 10th meeting, on 19 April 2018, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4.

18. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 368th plenary meeting, on 21 February 2018, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the 2018 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.80/Rev.1) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled "In accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189), preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space". At its 369th meeting, on 2 April 2018, the Commission elected Jeroen Cooreman (Belgium) Chair of Working Group II.

2. Working Group II held 10 meetings, between 3 and 18 April 2018. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management served as secretariat of the Working Group, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 3 April 2018, the Working Group held a general exchange of views and heard an introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (A/72/65) by the Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Thomas Markram.

4. The Working Group held deliberations during which delegations exchanged views and made written and oral proposals. During the course of the session, Australia submitted a working paper (CRP.1), as did the Russian Federation (CRP.2). The States members of the League of Arab States also submitted a working paper (CRP.3).

5. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 5 April 2018, delegations exchanged views and began and concluded a discussion on the implementation of measures contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189). At its 2nd meeting, the Working Group also heard presentations by the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Working Group on the Long-

term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, Peter Martinez, and the Chair of the 2012–2013 Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities, Victor Vasiliev.

6. At its 4th meeting, on 10 April 2018, the Working Group exchanged views and began and concluded a discussion on the relationship between outer space transparency and confidence-building measures and measures on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

7. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 12 April 2018, the Working Group exchanged views and began and concluded a discussion on building understanding on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities and other aspects related to maintaining international peace and security in outer space. The Working Group also heard a presentation by the Chair of the subsidiary body of the Conference on Disarmament on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota.

8. At the 7th meeting, on 16 April 2018, the Chair introduced a paper dated 13 April, taking into account written and oral proposals made by delegations. The paper was presented under the Chair's own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. The Working Group completed a first reading of the Chair's paper dated 13 April.

9. At the 8th meeting, on 16 April 2018, the Chair circulated a revised text of his paper dated 16 April and the Working Group began and completed a first reading of the Chair's revised paper. The Chair circulated a revised text of his paper dated 16 April (evening) following the 9th meeting.

10. At the 9th meeting, on 18 April 2018, the Chair circulated a revised text of his paper dated 18 April and the Working Group began and completed a reading of the Chair's paper. The Working Group agreed to convert the annex to the paper (Chair's summary of discussions) into a stand-alone non-paper under the Chair's own responsibility. Following the 9th meeting, the Chair circulated a revised text of his paper dated 18 April as a conference room paper (A/CN.10/2018/WG.II/CRP.4). That paper was also presented under the Chair's own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. The Working Group agreed to continue its discussion on the Chair's paper at the next session of the Commission.

11. At its 10th meeting, on 18 April 2018, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5.

12. Also at its 10th meeting, the Working Group recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

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